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**Commission on Population and Development**
**Thirty-sixth session**
31 March-4 April 2003
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

# Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters:
   (a) Report of the intersessional meeting of the Bureau;
   (b) Agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.
4. General debate on national experience in population matters: population, education and development.
5. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
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## Annotations

### 1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required.

At past sessions, the Commission has elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

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**2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

**(a) Report of the intersessional meeting of the Bureau**

**(b) Agenda and organization of work**

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council requires that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

On the recommendation of the Commission at its thirty-fifth session, the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2002/299 of 26 July 2002, approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

At its thirtieth session, the Commission decided to authorize its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions on a yearly basis. The Commission has before it the report of the Bureau on its intersessional meeting, held in Rome on 21 and 22 October 2002.

**Documentation**

Provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2003/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2003/L.1)

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meeting (E/CN.9/2003/8)

**3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development**

In its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, the General Assembly decided that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference at the national, regional and international levels, and advise the Council thereon.

In the terms of reference of the Commission,[1] which were endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/55 of 28 July 1995, the Commission was called upon to adopt a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme, including the quinquennial review and appraisal of the Programme of Action. That work programme, inter alia, would provide a framework for assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action. In the report of the Commission on its twenty-eighth session, which the Council took note of in its decision 1995/236 of 17 July 1995, the Commission called for the preparation of annual reports on a selected topic of the Programme of Action and a report on the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action to be prepared quinquennially.[2] In its decision 2000/1, the Commission decided that the

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 7* (E/1995/27), annex I, sect. I.A.

[2] Ibid., sect. III.

topic for 2003 should be "Population, education and development". In its resolutions 2001/1 and 2002/1, the Commission reaffirmed that the next review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action would be scheduled for 2004.

At its twenty-first special session, the General Assembly, in its resolution S-21/2 of 2 July 1999, adopted the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, recommending that all relevant bodies and entities of the United Nations system should continue to clarify, within existing mechanisms, their specific leadership roles and responsibilities and continue to strengthen their efforts to promote system-wide coordination and collaboration, especially at the country level. It also noted that the intergovernmental work of the Commission should be reinforced.

Subsequent to the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly, the Assembly, in September 2000, convened the Millennium Summit of the United Nations. The United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] embodies development goals and commitments, many of which are derived from the global conferences of the 1990s, including the International Conference on Population and Development.

In its resolution 57/270 of 20 December 2002, the General Assembly reaffirmed that while each United Nations conference had its thematic unity, major United Nations conferences and summits should be viewed as interlinked and contributing to an integrated framework for the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration; and emphasized that the relevant functional commissions must fulfil their responsibilities as specified in the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits, and should further enhance their role as the main forums for expert follow-up and review of major United Nations conferences and summits. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Assembly that would produce concrete recommendations to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and would submit proposals on how best to address the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the major conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including its format and periodicity. The Assembly also decided that future decisions on follow-up to conferences whose 10-year anniversary were imminent should be kept pending subject to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly on the report of the working group; and that the working group would commence its substantive work during the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly, no later than January 2003, and would submit its report before Friday, 27 June 2003, for consideration by the Assembly and action before the end of that session in 2003.

**Documentation**

Concise report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, 2003: population, education and development (E/CN.9/2003/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring of population programmes focusing on population, education and development (E/CN.9/2003/3)

[3] See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2003/4)

**4. General debate on national experience in population matters: population, education and development**

The Commission has concluded that it would be useful to make provision in its agenda for a general debate on population matters relating to the topic of the Commission's focus, during which views and national experiences could be exchanged.

**5. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population**

At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to continue to give high priority to the monitoring of population trends and policies; undertake biennial preparation of estimates and projections of global, national, urban, rural and city populations; conduct studies on population and related development policies; prepare studies on interactions of population change; carry out analyses of mortality; contribute to and coordinate in-depth studies on fertility and nuptiality and reproductive rights and health, including family planning; undertake studies to improve the understanding of the causes and consequences of internal migration and international migration; increase public awareness of and information exchange on population and development issues; make the necessary arrangements for coordinating the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action; and provide technical cooperation support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition, in the light of the economic and social problems that those countries face at present. The Commission reaffirmed the content of the work programme at its twenty-ninth session (Commission resolution 1996/1).

At its thirtieth session, the Commission stressed the importance of continuing the basic work of the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat on the crucial underpinnings of population estimates and projections; basic population trends and issues, including fertility, mortality, migration and patterns of rural and urban population change; the evolution of population policies; and understanding of the links between population and development (Commission resolution 1997/3).

In the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[4] the Population Division is entrusted with the responsibility for (a) provision of substantive support to the Commission; (b) provision of assistance in the ongoing review, monitoring and assessment of the Programme of Action in achieving the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action and in its second quinquennial review and appraisal; (c) preparation of official United Nations population estimates and projections, including age and sex patterns in mortality and fertility data, for all countries and areas of the world, as well as the official United Nations estimates and projections of urban and rural areas and major cities; and (d) effective dissemination

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1).

of worldwide population information, via the Internet, including through the Population Information Network (POPIN) and other means.[5]

The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1996/2 of 17 July 1996, proposed that, in addition to their special coverage in the *World Population Monitoring* reports, main demographic trends be covered biennially, starting in 1997, in a complementary concise report prepared by the Population Division, to be discussed under the agenda item concerning the work programme of the Population Division.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2003/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2002: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2003/6)

Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work of the Population Division for the biennium 2004-2005 (E/CN.9/2003/7)

## 6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-seventh session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

The attention of the Commission is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/41 of 10 May 1979 and 1981/83 of 24 July 1981 on the control and limitation of documentation. In addition, the Commission is reminded that the Council, in paragraph 1 (j) of resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982 on the revitalization of the Council, urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies, and to implement fully the provisions of the decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation.

The attention of the Commission is also drawn to paragraph 4 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/50, in which the Secretary-General recommended that: (a) the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the General Assembly should be streamlined in order to enable the subsidiary bodies to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them; (b) the Council and the Assembly should continue to review the provisional agendas for their subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency in the overall request for documentation and its orderly consideration at the intergovernmental level, taking fully into account the medium-term plan and the programme budget; and (c) in doing so, the Council and the Assembly should also take into account the need for the consolidation of items and documentation for their subsidiary machinery.

[5] Ibid., para. 7.29.

Furthermore, in its resolution 1981/83, the Economic and Social Council instructed its subsidiary bodies to take urgent measures to streamline their agendas and programmes of work and to bring about a substantial reduction in their requests for documents, bearing in mind the duration and the cycles of their meetings, and to report to the Council on measures adopted, taking strictly into account the guidelines set forth in the pertinent resolutions and decisions of the Council and the General Assembly.

In decision 1983/163 of 22 July 1983, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General: (a) to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources; and (b) to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

**Documentation**

Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2003/L.2)

7. **Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-sixth session**

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of each session.